

**Topical Heading**

# School Improvement

**Program Title**

## Voluntary Public School Choice

**CFDA # (or ED #)**

84.361

**Administering Office**

Office of Innovation and Improvement (OII)

**Who May Apply (by category)**

Local Education Agencies (LEAs), State Education Agencies (SEAs)

**Who May Apply (specifically)**

One or more SEAs; one or more LEAs; or a partnership of either: (1)(a) one or more SEAs and (b) one or more LEAs or other public, for-profit, or nonprofit entities or (2)(a) one or more LEAs and (b) one or more public, for-profit, or nonprofit entities may apply.

**Current Competitions**

None. FY 2006 funds support continuation awards only.

**Type of Assistance (by category)**

Discretionary/Competitive Grants

**Appropriations**

Fiscal Year 2004	\$26,757,196
Fiscal Year 2005	\$26,542,944
Fiscal Year 2006	\$26,277,570

**Fiscal Year 2006 Awards Information**

*Note: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.*

Number of New Awards Anticipated: 0

Number of Continuation Awards: 13

Average Continuation Award: \$1,950,996

Range of Continuation Awards: \$536,000–\$3,830,000

**Legislative Citation**

*Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965*, as amended, Title V, Part B, Subpart 3; 20 U.S.C. 7225–7225g.

**Program Regulations**

*EDGAR*

**Program Description**

This program supports efforts to establish or expand intradistrict, interdistrict, and open enrollment public school choice programs to provide parents, particularly parents whose children attend low-performing public schools, with expanded education options. Grant funds support: planning and implementation costs associated with new programs; tuition transfer payments to public schools that students choose to attend; and efforts to strengthen the capacity and quality of schools to meet the demand for choice and provide equitable access to such programs.

**Types of Projects**

Programs and projects assisted under this section are required to use a portion of the grant funds to provide the students selected to participate in the program with transportation services or the cost of transportation, to and from the public elementary schools and secondary schools, including charter schools, which the students choose to attend under the program.

Programs and projects assisted under this section may include the following activities:

- Planning or designing a program (for not more than one year);
- Making tuition transfer payments to public elementary or secondary schools to which students transfer under the program;
- Implementing capacity-enhancing activities that enable high-demand public elementary or secondary schools to accommodate transfer requests under the program; and
- Paying for other costs reasonably necessary to implement a public school choice program.

A grantee may not use funds for school construction. No more than 5 percent of the funds made available through the grant for any fiscal year may be used for administrative expenses.

**Education Level (by category)**

K–12

**Subject Index**

Charter Schools, Family Involvement, Magnet Schools, Parent Participation, School Choice

**Contact Information**

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**Links to Related Web Sites**

<http://www.ed.gov/programs/choice/index.html>